

APPENDIX B
Public Comments*

***THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED AT THE EXPERT TECHNICAL PANEL REVIEW MEETING #1. NOTE, THE MEETING IS NOT A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR TESTIMONY, BUT RATHER A TECHNICAL MEETING FOR EXPERT PANEL MEMBER DISCUSSIONS WITH TIME SET ASIDE TO HEAR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON DISCUSSION TOPICS.**

Statement for the opening meeting of the EPA WTC Air Quality Expert Technical Review Panel,
March 31, 2004

My name is Rachel Lidov. On September 11, 2001 one of the many strokes of luck which has characterized my life saw to it that my daughter, then attending Stuyvesant High School, would walk out of that building alive on the fourth day of that school year, that my then-unemployed husband was not interviewing for a job at Morgan Stanley in the Twin Towers as he had hoped to be doing, and that all of our many friends and acquaintances from more than a decade of his working in the heart of the financial district would escape the scene of devastation.

By the end of December of that year I learned that I had pushed luck too far. Choosing to rely on the honesty and integrity of the EPA and slipping into the false security of reading the New York Times daily had deafened me to a true friend's warning that there were serious problems caused by the environmental aftermath of the collapse of the World Trade Center, and that people were being asked to return to school and to work before it was safe for them to do so.

So when others parents at Stuyvesant High School echoed my friend's warning, and provided information on continuing contamination in and near the school, I turned to the task of understanding what the EPA should have been doing to protect those I love and care about. As a parent and as a citizen, I had no other choice. I put aside my daily routine and began to evaluate the risks my daughter and others were being subjected to, and what should have been done to protect them.

I now find myself at the receiving end of mail to the organization I helped found, 9/11 Environmental Action. As the nation begins to scrutinize the circumstances surrounding the attack on 9/11, increasing numbers of people, some of whom you are hearing from today, write to us about their suffering, frustration and despair as the consequences of toxic exposures after September 11th emerge. I am continually stunned by the devastation cause by EPA's negligence, dictated, as we now know, by the White House, in complete disregard of national regulatory law.

As I thought about what is occurring today, I asked myself what I could contribute to what I hope will be a turning point in our country's policies. I am a pianist and a piano teacher, not a scientist. Here is my answer: Like science, art is exacting, powerful, and beautiful. I grasp more firmly than ever that art and science are subject to the natural laws we discover through our work, and which we can choose to honor or destroy. This puts me in a position to distinguish the technical discussions from the political decisions that confront us. Therefore I wish to address some preliminary concerns:

The public record does not tell us how this panel came about, how and by whom the individuals who serve on it were selected. What agencies, offices and entities took part in establishing the panel? This is a matter which should be as easily available to the public. A transparent public process is the right of citizens of this country, when decisions that affect their health and well being are made and evaluated. Has this panel truly been set up by the EPA alone, consulting only with Senator Clinton and her staff?

The follow up question is simply to ask how it is possible that this Technical Expert Review Panel includes neither Dr. Steven Levin nor Dr. Robin Herbert, Medical Director and Co-Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine. Their experience in screening and testing for the respiratory ailments that have occurred from exposure to the World Trade Center contamination is unparalleled. Their omission is disquieting, to say the least.

These basic questions must be answered before this panel can bring to a halt the deadly cover-up of the truth and obfuscation of regulatory action that has brought thousands of healthy individuals to find the simple act of breathing torturous, and to fear the path ahead of them. Only then can you quickly correct the cost-effective compromises of the clean-up of 2002-2003 that still threaten our lives. Only then can you extend its reach to prevent further exposures of those

already here and those who will innocently come here. If we are to prevent more illness and early death we can accept nothing less.

Thank you.

Rachel Lidov
545 West 111th Street (9J)
NYC 10025

**Kelly E. Colangelo
New York, NY 10282**

My name is Kelly Colangelo and I am a resident of Battery Park City (BPC). On September 11, 2001, I lived in an apartment on John Street, between Broadway & Nassau - 1-½ blocks from the WTC.

Background

On September 11, 2001, my apartment on John Street sustained smoke damage. In addition, thick gray dust, mixed with burnt papers, pervaded the apartment through the open windows. I contracted a rash on my face, and began suffering from severe headaches, sinus problems, and a deep cough after I was allowed to enter my building on September 12. The air in my apartment was cloudy with suspended dust, and I had trouble breathing. The dust from my apartment had also blown into the building's carpeted hallway through the gap between the bottom of my door and the floor. That afternoon, I was told to evacuate the building.

On September 18, the property manager notified tenants that we could re-occupy our apartments. I went back into my apartment the following day, but again, it was hard to breathe, which forced me to limit my time in the apartment to 10-minute intervals. I knew I could not stay in the apartment, so I decided to remain in the hotel until I could find someone to clean up the dust and debris. I sought recommendations for cleaning companies from friends and found a cleaning & restoration contractor that could clean the apartment by the end of September - so I hired them. I met the seven-person crew in the apartment on September 27 – while I am sure the laborers were skilled, they did not wear protective equipment and were not trained in asbestos abatement. Nevertheless, I looked to this contractor to tell me which personal items I should dispose of, and which items I could keep.

I moved back into my apartment on September 30. The air in the apartment was stagnant and dirty - there had been no ventilation since I shut the windows on the 12th. The filters for our individual HVAC units were on backorder so I lived with the old, dust-covered filters until early November. Coughing from the lingering dust in the apartment, I covered the three HVAC units with cheesecloth to capture the dust that blew out of the units when turned on. I removed the cheesecloth weekly after it turned from white to dark gray. Unable to open the windows until after the fires stopped burning, my respiratory problems and rash persisted.

During this time, I had consulted a dermatologist and an internist about my symptoms, but they never asked me if I lived or worked near the WTC. They treated the immediate physical symptoms.

In January 2002, after opening the living room windows up wide, for the first time, several piles of dust and burnt paper fell from the window frames onto two of the indoor windowsills. I placed the dust in plastic bags, and sent a number of samples to two independent material testing firms. One firm measured Fibrous Glass at 30% of the volume, Calcite at 25%, and Gypsum at 20%.

Another firm tested five bulk dust samples for the level of asbestos and found levels between 1.4% and 2.0% of the volume. I turned to the Internet to find information about

**Kelly E. Colangelo
New York, NY 10282**

all the particulates. I discovered the matter found in the dust was potentially toxic, depending on the level of exposure.

I moved to midtown in February 2002. My daily headaches eased and eventually went away, and my sinuses began clearing, though the persistent cough lingered. After nine months, I moved back to my neighborhood, this time to Battery Park City.

EPA Voluntary Clean-up Program

Because my Battery Park City apartment overlooked the former barge operation at Pier 25, I registered it for the EPA cleanup program. I was uncertain about the reasons behind the decision to limit testing to asbestos since I knew, from my personal testing, that the dust and debris contained other possible toxins.

I chose to have the apartment cleaned and then a tested using the aggressive method. After re-reading the cleaning and testing protocols in April 2003, I ascertained the Program Monitor and his team did not follow protocol. The cleaners did not cover the intake/discharge registers with plastic; the testers did not turn on the HVAC unit or run a 20-inch fan during testing. I know this because I was present at the start and conclusion of both the cleaning and the testing so I could supervise the workers coming in and leaving my apartment. In addition, the Project Monitor never returned to my apartment to conduct a post-sampling meeting or ask me to sign-off on a Project Completion form. I left a voicemail for the EPA Quadrant B Coordinator that April and never received a reply.

In early September 2003, an allergist diagnosed me with several new allergies and symptoms of mild asthma. After this medical diagnosis, I sent a follow-up letter to the EPA Quadrant B Coordinator, copying Congressman Nadler's office. I outlined my concerns about the adherence to the cleaning and testing protocol; requested a recommendation about disposal of my furniture; and asked if EPA cleaned and tested my building's central HVAC system.

This time I received a verbal and written reply. Contrary to documented protocols, the Coordinator told me that the registers did not need to be covered with plastic because they were working properly and that HVAC units were not supposed to be turned on during aggressive testing. He did inform me that my building did not participate in the voluntary cleaning and testing program, and that the cleaning protocols have shown to remove only 60-70% of the asbestos from upholstery and carpets.

When I asked if I should remove the furniture, he told me it was my decision and forwarded me an undated fact sheet about fabric and upholstery cleaning. I subsequently called the EPA Hotline and asked them to remove my previously contaminated furniture and carpet. EPA said 'no', stating that they only removed these items at the start of the cleaning process.

**Kelly E. Colangelo
New York, NY 10282**

Conclusion

I still suffer from a persistent cough. I have also experienced physical symptoms that I never experienced before September 11, 2001. In addition, I often wonder if my former John Street apartment was cleaned and tested under the EPA program. Or if the new tenants know that the apartment sustained damage after the collapse of the WTC – because they should.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT GULACK, UNION STEWARD,
U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION,
BEFORE THE EPA TECHNICAL PANEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Robert Gulack, (201) 794-9322

My name is Robert Gulack. I am a senior attorney at the United States Securities & Exchange Commission, but I am here today, not as a representative of the SEC, but as a union steward of the National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 293, which represents the bargaining unit at the SEC. I am an example of a Manhattan office worker who now has permanent lung damage because of exposure to uncleaned World Trade Center debris in an office building in southern Manhattan. I am an example of someone who is the victim of the EPA's failure to follow the law and see to it that the office buildings affected by the terrorist attacks were properly cleaned up. The EPA must be immediately called upon to follow the recommendations of its own Inspector General, and one of those recommendations was to test office buildings. We have waited to have our office buildings tested for two and a half years. We cannot be asked to wait another six months, or another two years. Enough permanent damage has already been done. Enough permanent damage is currently in progress. There can be no objection to simply doing the testing, and to doing it as soon as is humanly possible. There is no reason to postpone office testing until this panel has considered every other aspect of this on-going medical crisis.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Labor reviewed my medical records, including CT scan results and evaluations by three doctors. They accepted my federal worker's compensation claim that I was harmed by Sept. 11th contamination in my office building. We must test the other office buildings before additional office workers are harmed as I have been harmed.

The SEC's New York office used to be at 7 World Trade. On September 11, 2001, those offices were destroyed. In October 2001, SEC management directed us to go to work at the Woolworth Building, just over a block from Ground Zero. I had no respiratory problems prior to coming to work in the Woolworth Building in October 2001. I fell ill with asthma two days after coming to work in the building, and have continued to suffer ever since from repeated attacks of bronchitis. I was not alone. Most of my colleagues fell ill soon after going to work in the Woolworth Building. But we were told the EPA said the air was safe. We were assured we would suffer no long-term damage to our health. These assurances turned out to be false. After more than two years, many of us continue to suffer from respiratory and other problems. At least two of the workers I represent have exhausted all their sick leave and annual leave.

I have suffered more than half a dozen attacks of bronchitis in the last two years. Ten months after coming to the Woolworth Building, I was hospitalized for pneumonia. My CT scan proves that pneumonia left behind permanent lung damage. My lungs show scarring, calcification, and collapse, none of which will ever heal. To this day, I continue

to be on five prescription medications for my lungs, including twice daily doses of steroids. To this day, each exposure to the Woolworth Building aggravates my respiratory condition, even though I try to protect myself by wearing a respirator and operating a HEPA filter in my office.

Testing by SEC management in November 2001 proved that the exterior of the Woolworth Building was coated with contamination containing 3% asbestos. The landlord did not begin to clean the exterior of the Woolworth Building until September 4, 2003. We can only assume that, wherever Sept. 11th asbestos is found, the space was also penetrated by the other contaminants blown away from the World Trade Center towers as they collapsed.

A month after we went to work in the Woolworth Building, the SEC found asbestos on the floors we were occupying, and the air intake rooms we were using, and tried to have those floors and air intake rooms cleaned. But follow up testing carried out by our union last year proved that the surface of the floors in the SEC's air intake rooms had been recontaminated with asbestos at levels as high as 850,000 structures per square centimeter, more than 400 times the background level before the attacks.

Our testing also found that the floors of the elevators our people use were also seriously contaminated with asbestos. We also found asbestos in our stairwells.

Asbestos has also been found in the air of an air intake room, an elevator, and an elevator lobby at levels approaching or exceeding EPA standards.

The experience of the SEC in the Woolworth Building is only one example of what life is like in the office buildings of southern Manhattan, because the EPA has refused to test them and see they are decontaminated. Until the office buildings are tested and cleaned, more and more office workers will be harmed each day. Each day, the attacks of Sept. 11th become more and more successful, as we allow more people to be harmed.

The EPA knows very well that OSHA's equipment is out-of-date, and is unable to visualize 90% of the highly pulverized World Trade Center asbestos. That is why the EPA did not rely on OSHA to clean the EPA's New York offices. All we are asking for is that New York office workers who are not lucky enough to work for the EPA should get the same level of testing the EPA arranged for itself - testing with electron microscopes.

Let the testing begin now, so that, as promptly as possible, this review panel will have the necessary data to advise on what needs to be cleaned up.

The EPA WTC Expert Technical Review Panel

Public Meeting
Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House
One Bowling Green, Manhattan
March 31, 2004

Testimony of
Micki Siegel de Hernández, MPH
Director, CWA District One Health and Safety Program
on behalf of the Communications Workers of America, District
One
Lawrence Mancino, V.P.
March 31, 2004

My name is Micki Siegel de Hernández and I am the Director of the Health and Safety Program for the Communications Workers of America (CWA), District One. I am here today because of our concerns about air quality after 9/11, both outdoors and indoors, and the impact on the health of our members from exposure to contamination created by the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster.

CWA represents thousands of members who have been directly affected by this contamination. Some of our members evacuated from the World Trade Center and surrounding buildings, thousands of our members worked at Ground Zero, thousands continue to work in offices throughout lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. Our members include administrative employees of the Port Authority who worked in the Towers. At Ground Zero, our members included telecommunications workers employed by Verizon and Lucent, as well as the news crews from ABC, NBC and other stations who brought live coverage of the disaster and its aftermath. CWA also represents the nurses who treated the first victims of the disaster at the closest hospital to the WTC site, NYU Downtown Hospital. We represent N.Y.C. traffic enforcement agents, some of whom assisted in the rescue efforts on 9/11 and others who continued to redirect traffic around Ground Zero and in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. CWA members working in offices in lower Manhattan include: public sector administrative employees for the City of New York, Verizon and AT&T telecommunications employees, Dow Jones news reporters from 1 World Financial Center, and Board of Elections employees. The CWA District One office is also located in lower Manhattan.

Since 9/11, CWA has been concerned about the health of our members. Indeed, many CWA members have already developed 9/11-related illnesses; we do not know what the future holds in terms of chronic disease. For our members, EPA's politically motivated declaration of air safety had numerous, adverse repercussions. For one, EPA's misrepresentation of the facts led to misinformed employer decisions that had a deleterious effect on the health of our members and that left CWA members inadequately protected at Ground Zero. Verizon's voluntary respiratory protection program is a prime example, the result of which has been documented, WTC-related health problems for many of our telecommunications members who were exposed to the dust and debris. A 'voluntary' respiratory protection program means you don't have to wear a respirator, but if you choose to do so, you do not have to be fit-tested to make sure the respirator works as it's supposed to, nor do you receive a comprehensive training about how to use your respirator.

Our members are sick. The preliminary report from the WTC Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program released in January 2003 confirmed this. The interim report by the WTC Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program summarizes data on a random sample of 250 of the first 500 patients examined under the auspices of the NIOSH funded WTC Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program during the period of July 16 to August 29, 2002. The largest single group of workers in the sample by job/industry were telecommunications workers employed by Verizon. This group of CWA members comprised 44% of the sample population on which the preliminary report is based. The report indicated: approximately 50% of the participants experienced persistent WTC-related pulmonary, ear, nose or throat (ENT), and/or mental health symptoms 10 months to one year following the terrorist attacks; 78% of

the participants reported at least one WTC-related pulmonary symptom that first developed or worsened as a result of their WTC-related efforts; and only about one-third of the sample participants had received any prior medical care for their symptoms and conditions before participating in the screening program.

CWA is also very concerned about indoor contamination of workplaces. This is another area where EPA's assertion that the air was safe contributed to unnecessary worker exposures to contaminants. Thousands of our members returned to their offices prematurely. No government agency - local, state or federal - cared enough or took the responsibility to make sure that these workplaces were properly cleaned and free of known toxic substances.

For the EPA to misrepresent data affecting the health of workers and the community following the disaster was wrong. But, to continue to ignore the consequences of that licentious misrepresentation is egregious and downright criminal.

CWA would like the EPA Expert Technical Panel to consider the following questions:

1. What is the legal and scientific rationale for not including workplaces and other commercial spaces in EPA's testing and clean-up program and when will the EPA include these buildings in the program?
2. While there is clearly the need to look at science and re-evaluate standards and models of exposure, that debate can take years. At what point will the irrefutable fact that thousands of workers and community members are already ill as a direct result of their 9/11-related exposures be considered in this debate and spur the necessary action?
3. What will EPA do differently in the future to make sure that workers and the public are protected from hazardous, environmental contamination created as a result of an act of terrorism or other emergency?
4. What will the EPA be doing to protect workers and the public from future, on-going contamination, such as diesel exhaust, created by what will amount to a 16-acre construction site in lower Manhattan?

Thank you.

Mike Halpert:

I WENT TO YOU LMDC HEARING TO SPEAK. NOT MORE THEN A HALF HOUR EARLIER TO ME LEAVING HOME YOUR PEOPLE CALL ME TO SEE IF I WAS STILL COMING TO SPEAK AND I REPLAYED YES. I GET THERE & THE SECURITY GUARD TELLS ME IT WAS CANCELED DEW TO A FOLD. TO ME THIS SOUNDS LIKE WHAT I HAVE BIN SAYING. THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END. YOU KNOW THE GRATE FLOOD LIKE IN KNOWERS ARK. WE ARE WASTING TAXPAYERS RESOURCES ON USELESS PROGRAMS. WE NEED JOBS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING & TO STOP THE RIP-OFF OF TAX MONEY FOR PERSONAL GAIN. I RECEIVED NO MONEY TO HELP ME RESTART MY 30 YEAR OLD SMALL BUSINESS IN THE WALL ST. AREA \$ 20 BILLION WENT MISSING & SELF SERVED TO THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION. NOW I GO TO COURT N 4/ 1 /04 TO FIGHT THE EVICTION FOR MY HOME ALSO IN THE DOWN TOWN AREA. MY LIFE LONG HOME. BECAUSE THE GREEDY MANAGEMENT RIPPED-OFF FEMA & CHARITY MONEY THAT I PAID THEM FOR RENT. IF YOU RELAY WANT TO SAVE THIS CITY PLEASE READ MY STORY ON HOW TO SAVE OUR CITY. & STOP THE CORRUPTION BEFORE IT IS TO LATE FOR ALL OF US. IF YOU WIPEOUT THE MIDDLE CLASS WHO WILL PAY THE BILLS & WHO WILL FIGHT THE WARS. NOT THE RICH OR THE SPECIAL INTEREST. NOT THE POOR THEY DON'T OWN ANY THING. WHY WILL THEY GET THEM SELVES KILLED THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOOSE. AND NOW I HAVE NOTHING TO LOOSE. IT WAS ALL TAKEN AWAY FROM ME BY GREEDY PEOPLE THAT DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. THIS IS SHAMEFUL. AND SOMEONE SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISTRACTION OF OUR ECONOMY. WE DON'T NEED A HEALTH REGISTRY IF WE ARE HOMELESS & HUNGRY. THAT ALONE SHOWS YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT MY HEALTH OR ANY ONE ELS. THANKS. MIKE

Mike Halpert:

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWERS ALERT

ACT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

I RECEIVED MONEY FROM FEMA, UMCOR AND THE RED CROSS TO PAY MAINTENANCE COSTS (RENT). THIS MONEY WAS TURNED OVER TO PRC MANAGEMENT AND WAS EARMARKED SOLELY FOR RENT. PRC DISREGARDED THE INTENT OF THE PAYMENTS AND APPLIED THEM TO LEGAL FEES AND PENALTIES WITH ONLY THE BALANCE GOING FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE. THEN, BECAUSE OF A RENT SHORTFALL, PRC HAS TAKEN ME TO COURT SEEKING MY EVICTION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT.

WHEN I EXPLAINED TO MS. GLORIA VENTURA THAT THE MONEY WAS SOLELY FOR RENT AND NO OTHER PURPOSE SHE SAID SHE WOULD RATHER GIVE IT BACK TO THE CHARITY THAT GIVE UP THE FIGHT FOR MY EVICTION. SHE SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LAWYERS TO PROCEED WITH MY EVICTION. DOES MANAGEMENT WANT RENT PAID OR DO THEY WANT MY APARTMENT? IT DOESN'T TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO FIGURE THAT ONE OUT.

I SENT A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SOUTHBRIDGE TOWERS TELLING THEM THAT THE MANAGEMENT LAWYERS TOLD THE COURT THAT THEY WERE ACTING UPON ORDERS FROM THE SBT BOARD. THE BOARD MEMBERS I SPOKE WITH DENIED THAT WAS THE CASE AND EVEN FURTHER STATED THAT NO VOTE WAS TAKEN AS TO MY EVICTION. WHO IS TELLING THE TRUTH HERE?

IT IS A FACT THAT THE CURRENT MANAGER FROM PRC IS THE THIRD ONE SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. THE BOOKS ARE SCREWED UP, AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE TREATED LIKE THIRD CLASS CITIZENS. IT IS TIRESOME TO TRY AND DEAL WITH MANAGEMENT. IT IS THEIR WAY OR NO WAY. COMMUNICATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I ALSO HAVE AN ISSUE WITH THE LAW FIRM OF GUTMAN & MINTZ. THEY WORK STRICTLY FOR PRC AND HAVE ONLY THEIR INTEREST AT STAKE. ON THE FACE THEY LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WORKING FOR THE

BY

DIRECTED TO ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
OF THE ONCE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD (NEW YORK CITY, THAT IS)

I FEEL THAT GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING DOWN FROM THE TOP, AND TO THEM IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD. SO, WHY NOT RAISE A FEW TAXES? IF YOU THROW A PEBBLE IN A POND IT WILL CREATE A RIPPLE. THE RIPPLE CONTINUES TO GET BIGGER AND BIGGER UNTIL IT FINALLY DISAPPEARS IF YOU THROW A PEBBLE FROM THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IT MAY HIT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE ON ITS DOWNWARD COURSE, BUT, THE LAST ONE HIT IS THE ONE TO BE THE MOST INJURED. THAT'S WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH TAXES IN NEW YORK. THEY ULTIMATELY FALL SQUARELY ON TOP OF THE LAST GUY IN THE CHAIN. IN NEW YORKS CURRENT CRISIS SOME MAY SAY THE SKY IS FALLING. BUT, I SAY THE SKY HAS FALLEN

NOW, HOW CAN WE FIX THINGS? IN TIME OF CRISIS WE CALL OUR MUNICIPAL WORKERS HERO'S. AND, AT THEIR FUNERALS OUR OFFICALS CONTINUE TO GLORIFY THEM AS HERO'S. BUT, AT BUDGET TIME, WE REFER TO THEM AS BEING EXPENDABLE. SOMEHOW OUR VALUE SYSTEM HAS GONE ASTRAY. WE NEED TO TAKE A STEP BACK AND LOOK AT THE

PICTURE FROM A PAST PROSPECTIVE WHEN A WEEKS PAY WAS A MONTHS RENT, AND, WHEN A DEDICATED WORKER RETIRED HE WAS ABLE TO COLLECT HIS PENSION UPON RETIREMENT. TODAY IT TAKES TWO WEEKS PAY OR BETTER TO MEET THE RENT AND THE PENSION FUND HAS BEEN RAIDED AND IN SOME CASES DISAPPEARED ENTIRELY. TIME WAS WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL COULD OPEN A SMALL BUSINESS, WORK HARD, AND WATCH IT GROW. HIS BUSINESS PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. THATS HOW THE CITY, STATE AND COUNTRY GREW. THAT CAN'T HAPPEN TODAY. WHY, THAT IS THE QUESTION. THE ANSWER IS --- THE LANDLORD. THE ONE PERSON WHO SETS THE RENT AND YOU EITHER TAKE IT OR LEAVE.

A LANDLORD CAN ASK ANY PRICE HE WANTS. YOU SIMPLY PAY IT OR GET EVICTED. TOO OFTEN TENANTS ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS DUE TO SKYROCKETED RENTS AND THE PROPERTY REMAINS EMPTY FOR YEARS TO COME AND THE COMMERCIAL RENT TAX BASE IS ZERO. THE LANDLORD WRITES OFF HIS EXPENSES AND REAL ESTATE TAXES WHILE THE PROPERTY GOES INTO DECAY. WE NEED COMMERCIAL RENT STABLELIZATION. IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL BRING BACK TENANTS WHO ARE WILLING TO INVEST THEIR MONEY AND WORK HARD TO IMPROVE AND GROW THEIR BUSINESS. WHY SHOULD A PERSON INVEST HIS HARD EARNED MONEY AND WORK DILIGENTLY AT HIS BUSINESS ONLY TO HAVE THE LANDLORD DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE RENT AT LEASE RENEWAL TIME?

LET ME CITE A FEW EXAMPLES TO EXPLAIN HOW I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I'M AT NOW. SEVEN MONTHS AGO I WAS LOOKING FOR A STORE TO LEASE. I FOUND ONE ON BROADWAY IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN. IT WAS A JEWELRY STORE AND IT WAS GOING OUT OF BUSINESS. I SPOKE WITH THE STORE OWNER AND HE TOLD ME HE WAS PAYING \$ 3,000.00 A MONTH RENT AND THE BUILDING OWNER WANTED TO RAISE IT TO \$ 4,500.00 AND HE COULDN'T AFFORD IT. SUBSEQUENTLY HE CLOSED. I GOT THE NUMBER OF THE LANDLORD FROM A SIGN ON THE PROPERTY AND CALLED ABOUT A MONTH LATER. THE OWNER TOLD ME HE WANTED \$ 8,000.00 A MONTH RENT. THAT STORE IS STILL EMPTY.

PIER 17 AND THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT ARE ANOTHER CLEAR CUT EXAMPLE. VENDORS AND TENANTS IN THAT AREA HAVE BEEN LEAVING FOR YEARS. OF THE MORE THAN FIFTY ORIGINAL BUSINESSES THAT OPENED WHEN

PIER 17 WAS RENOVATED ONLY FIVE STILL REMAIN AND IN BETWEEN MANY HAD A FOUR OR FIVE TIME TURNOVER.

FOR MY OWN CASE I WAS BORN ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE INTO A FAMILY OF SIX SISTERS. MY FATHER PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS

OLD. BY ELEVEN I WAS CUTTING SCHOOL AND HELPING MY MOTHER RAISE MY SISTERS BY WORKING AS A MESSENGER AND DELIVERY BOY. I WORKED DAY AND NIGHT AT WHATEVER I COULD. WHEN I REACHED NINETEEN I WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE A 40 YEAR OLD JEWELRY COMPANY IN THE WALL STREET AREA. I OPERATED THERE FOR SIXTEEN YEARS UNTIL I TOO WAS FORCED OUT BY SKY HIGH RENT.

I BELIEVE THE ANSWER TO NEW YORK CITY'S FUTURE LIES IN A GOOD PART WITH COMMERCIAL RENT STABILIZATION.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING ME GET THIS PROGRAM MOVING OR IF YOU JUST WANT MORE INFORMATION CALL ME AT (212) 233-2571.

THANK YOU. MIKE AS IN "MIKE THE JEWELER" OR
"MICHAEL HALPERT"

JOHN. I NEED YOUR HELP. THIS EFFECTS ALL OF US, YOUNG AND OLD, AND IS DRIVING PRICES ON GOODS & SERVICES TO THE STRATOSPHERE. IF WE DO NOT STOP THIS LAWLESS CRIME WE WILL WIPE OUT THE MIDDLE CLASS. THEN WHO WILL PAY THE BILLS. THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW. A LANDLORD CAN OPEN A TELEPHONE BOOK, PICK OUT A PHONE NUMBER, AND THAT BECOMES THE COST OF YOUR RENT. IF YOU SAY YOU CAN'T PAY, THEN THEY TAKE YOU TO COURT AND THE JUDGE TELLS YOU THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO FOR YOU. YOU EITHER PAY THE ASKING PRICE OR YOU'RE OUT. IN RECORD TIME THE MARSHAL ARRIVES AND SEIZES YOUR BUSINESS. WHAT EVER YOU CAN'T CARRY OUT WITH YOU IN THE NEXT 10 MINUTES BECOMES PROPERTY OF THE LANDLORD TO DO WITH AS HE WANTS. SOME TIMES HE WILL RE-RENT AS A COMPLETE BUSINESS OR AUCTION IT OFF PIECE BY PIECE. THESE ARE PART OF A PERSON'S LIFE'S WORK, NOT TO MENTION PUTTING THEM OUT OF WORK. THERE IS NO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED BUSINESS PEOPLE AND THEY THEREFORE ARE UNRECORDED ON UNEMPLOYMENT RECORDS. THE SAME THING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING PRICES FOR ALL GOODS AND SERVICES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS LIKE SENIORS OR OTHER PEOPLE ON FIXED INCOMES. GROCERIES ARE NOW UP 30% AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE PRICES ARE CLIMBING DAILY. PEOPLE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE & FOOD STAMPS ARE GETTING AT LEAST 30% LESS FOOD FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF FOOD STAMP ALLOWANCE. WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING THEM GET ON THEIR FEET AND BACK IN THE WORK FORCE NOT HOLDING THEM DOWN. THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW THE BURDEN IS ON THE TAX PAYER WHILE MORE MONEY WINDS UP IN THE POCKETS OF GREEDY LANDLORDS. THIS IS KILLING OUR CITY. IF YOU HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD AND ARE ALL ALONE WHAT IS THE GOOD OF HAVING THAT WEALTH IF YOU DO NOTHING GOOD WITH IT. BILL GATES KNOWS THAT IF HE WAS THE LAST PERSON ON EARTH ALL OF HIS BILLIONS WILL MEAN NOTHING WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE. THAT IS WHY HE IS TRYING TO HELP OTHERS AS WE ALL SHOULD. THAT IS WHY HE IS BLESSED WITH HIS GOOD FORTUNE AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR OTHERS TO FALL IN LINE. BUSINESS AS USUAL IS NOT THE WAY TO GO. WE NEED CHANGE AND OUR LEADERSHIP TO STAND UP AND DO THE RIGHT THING. COMMERCIAL RENT STABILIZATION IS THE WAY TO GO. IT WILL ALLOW ALL OTHER THINGS TO RETURN TO NORMALCY AND BALANCE OUT TO ALLOW ALL TO SURVIVE IN OUR CITY, NOT JUST THE ONES WHO CAN DO SOMEONE OUT OF THEIR'S. IF THINGS ARE STABLE THEN YOU WON'T HAVE STRIKES FOR COST OF LIVING RAISES AND OUR WORK FORCE WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE. WE WON'T BE SQUEEZING OUT THE MIDDLE CLASS WHICH IS PAYING ALL THE BILLS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. MIKE THE JEWELER

Thursday, September 18, 2003 America Online: Mikethejeweler

Comments of Lower Manhattan Resident and Worker

Indira R. Singh
66 Pearl Street, Apt 508
New York, NY 10004

Indira@riskebiz911.com

Presented by:

Heather Swagart

Heather's Introduction:

My name is Heather Swagart and I work at a major US bank in Lower Manhattan. I am presenting these comments on behalf of my colleague Indira Singh.

Indira cannot be here because she was ordered by her doctors to leave her apartment immediately as it was re-stimulating her WTC syndrome conditions.

I am foregoing a day off work to present these comments, as this matter is important for all New Yorkers.

I am now going to read Indira's statement; the words are hers and have been submitted into the written record as such:

“My name is Indira Singh.

I work in risk and enterprise architecture and prior to 9/11 I was also a volunteer EMT. I was in athletic condition, a mountain climber. I have resided in a landmark designated building at 66 Pearl Street for the past 8 years. My building is located 700 yards South-South-East of the WTC site.

When the first tower collapsed my building rocked and the dust cloud headed in a SSE direction at over 50 mph. I responded to the site as an EMT.

I spent about one week there, walking 700 yards back and forth between Ground Zero and my apartment. Each time more dust, paper, floating particles, ash, and pieces of unknown materials and soot had made their way into my apartment. Compared to what I saw at Ground Zero this appeared insignificant.

After a week I began to experience cardiac and breathing problems, my first asthma attack.

It didn't make any difference if I was at the site, at my risk job two blocks away or at my apartment 700 yards away: symptoms were stimulated as I was always within a thousand yards of the site.

While the fires were burning, every gland in my body was swollen; I was coughing continuously. I was prescribed an inhaler for the breathing and codeine for the cough. I had no energy. My eyes were often infected. I have access to medical supplies from my climbing expeditions and was able to treat myself without constantly being at a hospital.

I had sores on my scalp and back; my hair fell out; rashes, lesions and growths appeared around my neck and nasal passages, some of which had to be lasered off. I considered myself lucky. Many of my neighbors – people had NOT responded to the site - reported the same symptoms and their dental work was also falling out.

Many called to ask me what to do, as their symptoms escalated when they cleaned their apartments. I organized neighborhood meetings with Safe Horizons and other groups and agencies.

Dr. Levin a WTC Program Director at Mt Sinai suggested I see a doctor in his program although the program's limit of 200 people had been reached. I was alarmed that my neighbors couldn't get access to a WTC program three months after the attacks.

In order to survive for every three weeks I spent in Lower Manhattan I spent one week out of it. I was lucky enough to have the resources to do this.

During 2002 whenever I left Lower Manhattan my WTC symptoms subsided, but returned when I came back. I lobbied to have the EPA mandate cleaning of the apartments. My apartment was finally cleaned in late 2002.

2003 was a year I thought would see the end of my WTC symptoms. Instead I was in for a huge surprise.

The initial EPA mandated cleaning did not abate the soot and ash in my building. Where is it coming from people asked? The outside air brings in more soot than prior to 9/11 but is that the whole answer? We need the EPA to determine this.

During 2003 my health continued to deteriorate. I still experienced all WTC symptoms in varying degrees, except now I was worn out. I was told this was just posttraumatic stress.

By November 2004, it hurt to breathe. I came to wish I had made it to the 106th floor that day, that 40 minutes of that hell would be far kinder in retrospect than the post 9/11 toxic version I have endured since then.

I was notified of a medically supervised detoxification program and after completing it, I regained my health and energy. I could breathe without coughing and I could sleep through the night. All WTC symptoms disappeared. **I am not here to sell any program, as different modalities work for different people. I am here to state that when I returned to my apartment after completing the program, all my WTC symptoms returned.**

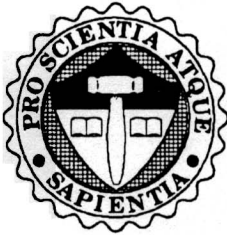
One of my doctors wrote a letter to my lawyer who is litigating on my behalf with the apartment owners regarding failure to clean soot and ash. The letter states that the soot and ash still in my apartment are re-stimulating my WTC syndrome.

It is not helpful to deny our toxic conditions. This encourages others outside the WTC toxic zone, or with financial incentives to deny the truth, and deny us the resources and help we so desperately need.

The EPA's actions and statements set the tone with landlords, insurance companies, real estate owners, health services and the American people. People all over the world saw the entire area was blanketed. They are bemused at the EPA's testing strategies. Please test ALL apartments requesting that be done.

In my opinion, there is a national perception problem with the EPA over 9/11. The EPA has one last golden opportunity to change that.

Thank you."



Board of Education of the City of New York
Stuyvesant High School
345 Chambers Street,
New York, NY, 10282
'A Tradition of Excellence'

Stanley Teitel
Principal

Randi S. Damesek
Assistant Principal Organization
Eleanor Archie
Assistant Principal Guidance
Edward Wong
Assistant Principal Technology Services

Memo: re: September 11, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Since September 11, 2001, the building has not been the same. When we returned on October 9 without warning until quitting time at 5:30 – 6:00 P.M. on October 6 while we were temporarily housed at Brooklyn Technical H.S., the building has never been properly cleaned.

Many teachers have had respiratory problems because of the high concentration of asbestos and lead particles in the air. Furniture was never properly vacuumed nor carpeting. In fact, in the Guidance office, certain carpeting still remains and the furniture has NEVER been cleaned that we sit on daily. In fact, furniture was removed and used for fire workers and rescue workers to rest or sleep on including office chairs. Curtains in the auditorium were never cleaned and carpeting which was in the auditorium was not changed until almost a year later after I went on National television, NBC and CBS to protest the high levels of asbestos that had been found in certain common areas. Finally, a little more than a "lick and promise" cleaning was done in the summer of 2002 after an August appearance on the six o'clock news on two national channels. However, even after that the Board of Education deliberately hid the results from us.

It has been a neverending battle with the Board Of Education, EPA and Senator Schumer's wife who controlled the municipal area. The only person who somewhat sympathized with our appeal was Senator Clinton.

3,200 students and teachers were put into jeopardy daily breathing unsafe air (which is still unsafe) and mandated to go back to a school that was a health hazard.

I have respiratory problems and cannot wear contact lenses or work without special nose spray and cough medicine daily.

I believe the EPA, Board Of Education and City of New York put us all into a very dangerous situation.

Very truly yours,

Patrick J. Niglio, Ph.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 9/11 my physical health and mental health have not been the same.

I work at Stuyvesant and live on Harrison St. across from the school.

I had repeated eye problems and had a sty on the lid of my eye that required 3 different medications and lasted for months until finally it had to be surgically taken care of. I had never had a sty before in my 48 years of life.

I am experiencing worst sinus problems then I ever had before. I constantly have sinus headaches and a post-nasal drip that requires saline solutions, nasal cortisone treatment and allergy medication. I have a cough that is always there.

I had high blood pressure before 9/11 but had to increase my blood pressure medicine after that day because the original dose could control it no longer.

I do not sleep well and constantly am fearful and have nightmares. My 16yr old son also developed asthma.

I don't know what the answer is. I know that we have never experienced this type of attack and do not know the results of what causes what, but I hope the symptoms I have and my co-workers have will not be dismissed as nothing.


Thank you for listing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Carrano".

Carol Carrano

A Stuyvesant secretary and a Tribeca resident

To: Milton Diaz


From: Kathryn Mets, Librarian

Re: Hearing, Oversight...

Date: March 26, 2004

My heart pounds fiercely and I have shortness of breath when I exert myself. This is a relatively recent development and seems to be worsening. I suspect this is due to the poor air quality around us. Sometimes I lose my sense of equilibrium.

I do not relish going into the subway. I was in the subway at the time 9/11 occurred and it was somewhat chaotic. At times I am nauseous just knowing that I will be taking the subway and coming to this location. From our library windows, we could see people jumping out of the windows of the WTC. The other librarian and I drew the shades in an attempt to prevent the students from seeing the sight. It became etched in one's memory.

Vincent Amato
English Department
Stuyvesant High School

March 25, 2004

When it comes to matters of air quality, I was, sadly, educated in the complexity of the issue during my tenure at Norman Thomas High School. The school was among the earliest to have been diagnosed with Sick Building Syndrome. Built in the mid-seventies, the school was a virtually hermetically sealed environment. In spite of all of our attempts to document that the school was deleterious to our health, we simply could not find the proverbial "smoking gun." In fact, we learned that the very possibility of establishing a clear cause and effect relationship between how we felt and the physical conditions within the building was near impossible.

No doubt largely as a result of the experience at Norman Thomas and a host of similarly configured schools built during the same period, the new Stuyvesant was built with an allegedly triple system, i.e., a central ventilation unit, separate room ventilation units and, lo and behold, windows that opened. What the Stuyvesant experience soon illustrated, however, *even before the devastating effects of 9/11*, was that schoolrooms can not be treated as office buildings, that large school buildings of the latter twentieth century all fall short of the mark in providing anything approaching an optimal physical environment. At Stuyvesant, for example, there are many rooms without windows, there are rooms that have in-take registers but lack out-take registers, the separate room ventilation systems are in a constant state of disrepair, "balancing" issues are a constant problem, that even where there are windows, they often mean little in the absence of cross-ventilation.

Classrooms with thirty-five students in them are the sweatshops of post-modern architectural design. People get sick in them. Even when they don't get sick, they are far more weary at the end of the day than workers in well-ventilated environments. A high-rise school building in New York City is a '57 Chevrolet in the age of the '04 Toyota. But it is not a laughing matter. People do get sick.

What was bad before 9/11 was horrific afterwards. And the effects linger. I would direct any interested party to the elevator shafts that serve the bridge giving access to the school. A little DNA research will reveal, I believe, (and I say this with some reluctance out of respect for those who died in the attack), that the remains of the victims are still in evidence. No one has ever bothered to clean the shafts. The same was true of many of the windows in the school. May still be true.

Since September of 2001, I, along with many of my colleagues, have suffered a form of upper respiratory distress that I had not suffered prior to the attack. Shortness of breath, a sense of congestion are common symptoms. There is no doubt in my mind that we suffered for having returned to the area prematurely. Yes, I am a smoker. Yes, I did not expect the city fathers in their wisdom to close down all of Manhattan below Fourteenth

Street, but what I did hope for was that in return for the community of kids and adults in the city's flagship school making the considerable sacrifice of returning to the area when we did, that all possible measures would be taken to ameliorate the effects of (a) merely being in a poorly designed school building; and (b) the exacerbation of an already bad situation that came as a result of 9/11.

It is never too late to give proper treatment. I write in the hope that steps will be taken.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent Amato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vincent Amato

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

March 24, 2004

To: All faculty and staff

Re: Hearing, Oversight – Air Quality After 9/11 (the Committee on Health & the Select Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment), March 29th, City Hall and a Forum on Health and Mental Health post 9/11 – March 31st

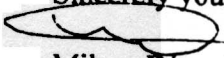
From: Milton Díaz

Dear Faculty & Staff:

I shall be testifying on March 29th and March 31st regarding air quality and the effects (mental and physical) of 9/11 on our school community. I encourage you to please submit a statement of your own that I could include in my typewritten testimony. Please do that as soon as possible and leave in my mailbox.

Thank you.

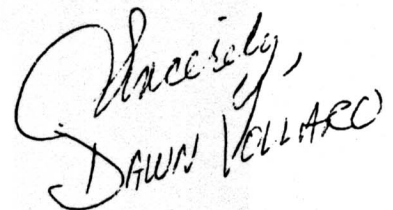
Sincerely yours,


Milton Diaz

UFT Executive Board Member

Due to constant bronchial infections and asthma attacks, I felt my only solution as to removing myself from the downtown area and unhealthy environment, was to apply for a sabbatical. I was granted my sabbatical for the Spring 2002 term. The bronchitis episodes diminished and I no longer needed to be on antibiotics as soon as I was away from Stuyvesant and on my sabbatical. My difficulties breathing disappeared as well.

When I returned in the Fall of 2002, many of my colleagues told me how smart I was to "get out." The school building had not been properly and thoroughly cleaned until the Summer of 2002. I feel had I not applied for, been granted, and, accepted the sabbatical, my health would have been in continual jeopardy (and decline).


Sincerely,
DAWN VILLAREJO



STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

345 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10282-1099

Telephone: (212) 312-4810 • Facsimile: (212) 587 - 3874

STANLEY TEITEL
Principal

3/26/04

To whom it may concern,

On September 11, 2001, I was beginning class here in Stuyvesant High School when my class and I heard an explosion outside the window. We looked out, and saw nothing, yet a few minutes later, a student ran in to look out the window that announced that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. A short time thereafter, we watched the second plane crash into the south tower.

My job as a teacher is to hold a center of stability and adult maturity in my classroom, and as I and thirty some odd students watched, we saw the flames begin, the bodies falling, and the North Tower coming down.

The images of that day plague me to this day. I commute into school, and have panic attacks whenever the bus enters the Holland Tunnel. I have dreams of a plane flying down the Hudson River and crashing into our building, and have an intense feeling of helplessness when facing this image.

Here at school, we held meetings to hear about the air quality, the cleanliness of the building, etc, but we almost never have had an opportunity to talk to one another as a group about the psychological trauma that we experienced and which impacts us each day. My sense is that the majority of the faculty is in chronic denial about the emotional impact of living through the 9/11 experience. I personally have been seeing a trauma therapist for the past two years. The depth of emotion, fear and panic which I still experience has at last come to the fore, and it is now workable. I feel better, do not have the same degree of panic as previously, and allow the feelings to pass.

My impression is that most of my colleagues are living in denial regarding their feelings and the trauma which they have suffered resulting from being present at the event and the aftermath of 9/11.

Continuing support is needed for us all to regain our equilibrium and let go of the trauma associated with the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

David Bank
Department of Chemistry and Dean of Students

3/29/04

Right after 9/11/01,
I had to see a doctor
re: breathing problems.

This, unfortunately, has
continued to be a problem
in the months & years
since 9/11/01. For fact,
each year it has worsened.

→ (I have had to be on
Cortisone this past fall/winter
in order to breathe and
function.)

I often have a sore
throat and burning eyes
as a result of working here.

The cleaning of the vents,
once it occurred, was a

John as only a few
inches up into the vents
were cleaned.

We were misled by
information from the Board
of Ed., the UFT,
and EPA re: safety.
This is a disgrace.

The long term effects are,
fear, going to be very
severe.

Teacher at Stuyvesant
since the first year
of occupancy at
345 Chambers St.

March 26, 2004

Mr. Stephen Tighe a custodian at Stuyvesant High School has been plagued with chronic asthma since September 11, 2001 and has discovered a growth in his vocal chords. Mr. Tighe is being treated at Mt. Sinai Hospital (since 2002). He uses two inhalers and nasal sprays.